

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRN, WB, GW, UK, US

SUBJ: TRIPARTITE STUDY OF IMPACT OF ENERGY CRISIS ON
BERLIN ECONOMY

REF: A) STATE 243147; B) BERLIN 2182

1. DEPTS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR TRIPARTITE ECONOMIC STUDY,
AS OUTLINED TO BRITISH EMBASSY REPS (REFTEL A) WAS FOR
BROAD-BASED SURVEY WHICH WOULD RELATE ENERGY SITUATION
TO BERLIN'S ECONOMIC VIABILITY. STUDY AS WE ENVISIONED
IT WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED IMPACT OF ENERGY CRISIS ON SUCH
DIVERGENT AREAS AS TOURIST INDUSTRY, PRIVATE AUTOMOBILE
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USAGE, FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION AND MAINTENANCE IN WEST

BERLIN OF BRANCH OFFICES OF FRG-BASED BUSINESSES.
BECAUSE OF ITS INTENDED SCOPE DEPT HAD SUGGESTED STUDY
BE UNDERTAKEN IN BERLIN TRIPARTITE ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE AND NOT IN CIVIL AVIATION FORUM (PARA 4 REF A).

2. OUR EXPECTATION WAS THAT ONCE A BROAD ECONOMIC
ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN DEVELOPED, QUESTIONS RELATING TO
AIR TRAVEL COULD BE CONSIDERED ON THEIR MERITS, NOT ONLY
BY THE AIRLINES SERVING THE CITY AND THE THREE WESTERN
ALLIES, BUT ALSO BY THE FRG AND SENAT WHOSE SUBSIDY
PAYMENTS INSURE THE PROFITABILITY OF THE PRIVATE CARRIERS.

3. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH THE BRITISH HAVE
PROPOSED (REFTEL B) ARE TOO NARROW TO MAKE THE TRIPAR-
TITE STUDY OF ANY OBJECTIVE USE. USBER IS PROBABLY
CORRECT IN ITS IEW (PARA 3 REF B) THAT BRITISH WILL,
IN WHATEVER WAY THEY CAN, KEEP COMING BACK TO THEIR OWN
PROPOSALS FOR AIR RATIONALIZATION, AND REFUSE TO
CONSIDER ANY BERLIN AIR PROBLEM, NO MATTER THE DICTATES
OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION, UNLESS GUARANTEED FIRST
THAT BEA WILL SUFFER NO FINANCIAL LOSS AS A CONSEQUENCE
OF ANY SOLUTION REACHED.

4. THIS KIND OF PAROCHIAL APPROACH INEVITABLY SUBOORDIN-
ATES BERLIN'S SHORT AND LONG TERM INTERESTS TO COMMERCIAL
CONSIDERATIONS. USBER SHOULD ACCORDINGLY DECLINE TO
PARTICIPATE IN STUDY BASED SOLELY ON BRITISH TERMS
OF REFERENCE, AND OUR PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE MADE
CONTINGENT ON HAVING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE RECAST
ALONG LINES SUGGESTED IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE.

5. DEPT WILL AWAIT RECEIPT OF USBER'S UNILATERAL STUDY
OF FUEL SITUATION BEFORE OFFERING DEFINITIVE VIEWS;
WE WERE, HOWEVER, INITIALLY STRUCK BY APPARENT DIVER-
GENCE BETWEEN TENTATIVE CONCLUSION REACHED BY MISSION
(PARA 4 REF B) AND GUIDELINES SUGGESTED BY DEPT
(PARA 4 REF A) AND WILL LOOK WITH INTEREST TO SEE WHAT
FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DIFFERENCE OF APPROACH. KISSINGER

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